

Ryan Carter

Senior Product Designer | Design Systems | AI-Assisted Prototyping & Implementation

Jersey City, NJ | ryanmichael.carter@gmail.com | 321-750-2493 | linkedin.com/in/ryan-carter-b8902144 | ryancarter.io

SUMMARY

Senior Product Designer with 12+ years of experience designing scalable design systems, accessible interfaces, complex product experiences, and high-performing web experiences. Founding designer at an acquired startup with 8+ years focused on design systems, component libraries, design tokens, Figma variables, accessibility, and close engineering collaboration. Experienced leading AI-assisted prototyping and implementation workflows AI-assisted prototyping and implementation workflows with Claude Code to translate design intent into working prototypes, reviewable UI output, documentation workflows, marketing pages, and custom assets.

CORE SKILLS

Product Design: 10+ years of experience in Figma, Prototyping, UX Research, UI Design, Strategy, 8+ years of accessibility experience

Design Systems: Design Tokens, Figma Variables, Code Connect, Design System Governance, Auto Layout, Variants, Design QA

AI Design: Claude Code, Codex, AI-assisted front-end prototyping, Next.js page creation, Markdown-to-page generation

EXPERIENCE

Senior Product Designer

Gradle | April 2024 - Present | Remote

- Shipped a new token-powered design system using AI-assisted workflows in Claude Code, including Code Connect to Figma, automated UI testing, accessibility testing, and scalable component workflows.
- Created design system tooling including a Figma plugin to detect missing tokens and component drift, plus a live Figma widget that tracks missing tokens and styles across the system.
- Created a self-service Markdown to Next.js page generation workflow that enables sales and product teams to author page specs in Markdown and convert them into design-system-powered Next.js pages.
- Used Claude Code to prototype and iterate on product and marketing experiences, including complete SVG animation work and design system UI exploration.
- Designed the Develocity IntelliJ plugin experience, extending Gradle's developer tooling into JetBrains IDE workflows.
- Designed an AI-powered Failures Summary UI for Gradle Build Scan to help users understand and act on build failure data more efficiently.
- Shipped a new Gradle homepage, Develocity product page, release notes UI, documentation center, and approximately a dozen marketing pages.
- Designed and delivered approximately 70 custom web assets, including illustrations, SVGs, animations, and visual elements supporting Gradle's brand and product storytelling.

Freelance Product Designer

Western Pixel | May 2014 - Present | Remote

- Lead end-to-end product design and AI-assisted front-end prototyping for web and mobile products across local, national, and international clients.
- Design and support implementation of a web-based eLearning platform for Entrepreneur Ready, supporting entrepreneurs through structured online education.
- Conduct accessibility research, interviews, testing, and design improvements to raise product standards from WCAG A toward WCAG AA compliance.
- Use AI-assisted design and development tools to prototype, refine, and review front-end experiences with HTML, CSS, and Tailwind CSS.

Senior Product Designer - Design Systems

NYSHEX (New York Shipping Exchange) | January 2023 - February 2024 | New York, NY

- Designed and built a custom Figma-based design system using design tokens, Figma variables, reusable components, and scalable component architecture.
- Led design system strategy, documentation, governance, and best practices across design and engineering.
- Partnered directly with engineers on implementation support, design QA, token creation, and component delivery.
- Led design for a new data analytics platform, solving for flexibility, clarity, and usability across complex data visualization workflows.
- Mentored designers on design systems, accessibility, and scalable product design practices.

Senior Systems Designer

Ribbon Homes | June 2022 - December 2022 | Remote

- Designed and documented a custom Figma design system with 50+ components, hundreds of variants, interactive components, text styles, design tokens, and detailed usage documentation.
- Helped lead product design through a major product redesign by providing critique, design direction, and mentorship to other designers.
- Led design work for a new iOS product and contributed to responsive web product initiatives.
- Partnered with PMs, designers, and engineers to improve design consistency, accessibility, and implementation quality.
- Mentored junior designers on product design, design systems, accessibility, and career growth.

Product Designer

Shoflo | May 2015 - June 2022 | Orlando, FL

- Joined Shoflo as the first and only product designer, leading the redesign of the full platform from marketing site to web application through the company's acquisition by Cvent.
- Led end-to-end design for a browser-based live streaming platform and core B2B SaaS products for live event production teams.
- Created and maintained a custom design system supporting complex real-time collaboration workflows.
- Owned UX design, UI design, prototyping, design QA, customer support workflows, and release validation for major product initiatives.
- Managed cross-functional development work, including project management, QA testing, and coordination with engineering.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration - Stetson University, DeLand, FL - 2013

Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing - Stetson University, DeLand, FL - 2012